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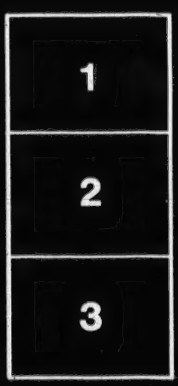

MEMOIRS

OF

ODD ADVENTURES,

Strange Deliverances, &c.

In the Captivity of

JOHN GYLES, Esq;

Commander of the Garrison on *St. George's River.*

Written by Himself.

Forgetful Youth! but know, the Power above
With ease can save each Object of his Love;
Wide as his Will extends his boundless Grace;
Nor lost by Time, nor circumscribed by Place.
Happier his Lot, who many sorrows past,
Long labring gains his natal Shore at last;
Than who too speedy hastes to end his Life
By some Stern Ruffian, — Homer's Odyss.

BOSTON, in *N. E.*

Printed and Sold by S. Kneeland and T. Green, in Queen-street, over against the Prison. MDCCXXXVI.

INTRODUCTION.

THESE private Memoirs were collected from my Minutes, at the earneſt Requeſt of my Second Conſort; for the Uſe of our Family: that we might have a Memento ever ready at Hand to excite, in our ſelves Gratitude & Thankfulneſs to GOD; and in our Offspring a due Senſe of their Dependance on the SOVEREIGN of the Univerſe, from the Precariouſneſs and Viciſſitudes of all ſublunary Enjoyments. In this State and for this End they have laid by me for ſome Years: At length falling into the Hands of ſome for whoſe Judgment I had a value; I was preſſed for a Copy for the Publick: and others deſiring of me to extract Particulars from thence, which the multiplicity and urgency of my Affairs would not admit, I have now determined to ſuffer their Publication. I have made ſcarce any Addition to this Manual, except in the Chapter of Creatures, which I was urged to have made much larger; and might have greatly enlarged, but I feared it would grow beyond its Proportion. I have been likewiſe adviſed to give a particular Account of my Father, which I am not very fond of; having no Dependance on the Virtues or Honours of my Anceſtors, to recommend me to the Favour of GOD or Men: Neverthleſs, becauſe ſome think that it is a Reſpect due to the Memory of my Parents, whoſe Name I was obliged to mention in the following Story, and a ſatisfaction which their Poſterity might juſtly expect from me; I ſhall give ſome Account, tho' as brief as poſſible.

The flouriſhing State of NEW ENGLAND (before the unhappy Eaſtern Wars) drew my Father hither, whoſe firſt Settlement was on Kennebeck River at a Place called Merry-meeting Bay; where he dwelt for ſome Years: 'till, on the Death of my Grand Parents, He with his Family return'd to England, to ſettle his Affairs. This done; He came over with

deſign

design to have return'd to his Farm, but on his Arrival at Boston, *the Eastern Indians had began their Hostilities. He therefore began a Settlement on* Long-Island. *The Air of that Place not so well agreeing with his Constitution, and the Indians being peaceable, he again proposed to resettle his Lands in* Merry-meeting-Bay : *but finding that Place deserted, and that Plantations were carried on at* Pemmaquid ; *he purchased several Tracts of Land of the Inhabitants there. Upon his Highness the Duke of* York's *resuming a Claim to those Parts, he also took out Patents upon that Claim : And when* Pemmaquid *was set off by the Name of the County of* Cornwal *in the Province of* New-York, *he was Commissionated Chief Justice of the same, by Governour* Duncan. *He was a strict Sabbatizer, and met with considerable Difficulties in the Discharge of his Office, from the Immoralities of a People who had long lived Lawless. He laid out no inconsiderable Income which he had annually from* England *on the Place, and at last lost his Life there, as hereafter related.*

I am not insensible of the Truth of an Assertion of Sir Roger L'Estrange *that* "*Books and Dishes have this common Fate; there never was an* "*one of either of them, that pleased all Palates.* [*And am fully of his Opinion, in this*] "*It is as little to be wished for, as expected; for a* "*Universal Applause, is at least two thirds of a Scandal.*"

To conclude with the Knight. "*Tho' I made this Composition principally for my* Family --- *Yet, if any Man has a Mind to take part with me, he has free leave and welcome. But let him carry this Consideration along with him,* "That he is a very unmannerly Guest, "that presses upon another Man's Table, and then Quarrels with his "Dinner.

MEMOIRS

Of Odd Adventures and Signal Deliverances in the Captivity of *John Gyles*, Esq;

CHAP. I.

Containing the Occurrences of the first Year.

ON the second Day of *August*, *Anno Christi* 1689, in the Morning, my honoured Father *Thomas Gyles*, Esq; went with some Labourers, my two Elder Brothers and my self, to one of his Farms, which lay on the River about three Miles above *Fort-Charles* †, adjoining to *Pemmaquid Falls*; there to gather in his English Harvest, and laboured securely till Noon. But after we had Dined, our People went to their Labour, some in one Field to their English Hay, the others to another

SECT. I. Of the taking the Family of *Thomas Gyles*, Esq;

† *Fort-Charles* stood on the Spot where *Frederick's Fort* was, not long since, founded the Hon. Col. DUNBAR. The Township adjoining thereto was called *James-Town*, in honour to the Duke of *York*. In this Town within a quarter of a Mile of the Fort was the Dwelling House of *Thomas Gyles*, Esq; from which he went out that unhappy Morning.

Field of English Corn, except my Father, the youngeſt of my two Brothers and my ſelf, who tarried near to the Farm-Houſe in which we had Dined, till about One of the Clock, when we heard the Report of ſeveral Great Guns from the Fort. Upon the hearing of them my Father ſaid, that he hop'd it was a Signal of good News, and that the Great Council had ſent back the Soldiers, to cover the Inhabitants: for on Report of the Revolution they had deſerted: But to our great Surprize about Thirty or Forty Indians diſcharged a Volley of Shot at us, from behind a riſing Ground near our Barn. * The Yelling of the Indians, the Whiſtling of their Shot, and the Voice of my Father, whom I heard cry out, What now! What now! ſo terrified me; tho' he ſeem'd to be handling a Gun, that I endeavoured to make my Eſcape. My Brother ran one way and I another; and looking over my Shoulder, I ſaw a ſtout Fellow, painted, purſuing me with a Gun; and a Curtlaſs glittering in his Hand, which I expected every Moment in my Brains: I preſently fell down, and the Indian took me by the Left Hand, offered me no abuſe, but ſeized my Arms, lift me up, and pointed to the Place where the People were at Work about the Hay; and lead me that way. As we paſſed, we croſſed my Father, who looked very pale and bloody, and walked very ſlowly. When we came to the Place, I ſaw two Men ſhot down on the Flatts, and one or two more knock'd on the Head with Hatchets, crying out, O Lord, &c!; there the Indians brought two Captives, one Man, and my Brother *James*, he that endeavoured to eſcape by running from the Houſe, when I did †. After they had done what Miſchief they could, ſat down, making us ſit with them: and after ſome time aroſe, pointing to us to go Eaſtward. They march'd about a quarter of a Mile and then made a Halt, and brought my Father to us: and made Propoſals to him by old *Mocus*, who told him that

* The Indians have a Cuſtom of uttering a moſt horrid Howl, when they diſcharge Guns, deſigning thereby to terrify thoſe whom they fight againſt.

† He was about Fourteen Years of Age. The eldeſt Brother whoſe Name was *Thomas*, wonderfully eſcaped by Land to the *Barbacan* (a Point of Land on the Weſt Side of the River oppoſite to the Fort,) where ſeveral Fiſhing Veſſels lay, he got on board one of them and came to Sail that Night.

they

they were strange Indians who shot him, and that he was sorry for it: My Father replied, that he was a dying Man, and wanted no Favour of them, but to Pray with his Children; which being granted, he recommended us to the Protection and Blessing of GOD Almighty; then gave us the best Advice, and took his leave for this Life, hoping in GOD that we should meet in a better. He parted with a chearful Voice, but looked very pale by reason of his great loss of Blood, which boil'd out of his Shoes: --- the Indians lead him aside---! --- I heard the blows of the Hatchet, but neither Shriek nor Groan! [I afterwards heard that he had five or seven Shot-holes, thro' his Wastecoat or Jacket, and that the Indians covered him with some Boughs.]

Sect. II. Of their taking *Pemmaquid* Town and Fort.

The Indians lead us their Captives, on the East side of the River, toward the Fort; and when we came within a Mile and half of the Fort and Town, and could see the Fort, we saw Firing & Smoke on all sides: Here we made a short stop, and then we moved within or near the distance of three quarters of a Mile from the Fort, into a thick Swamp. There I saw my Mother and my two little Sisters, and many other Captives taken from the Town. My Mother ask'd me of my Father, I told her, that he was kill'd, but could say no more for Grief; she burst into Tears, and the Indians moved me a little further off, and seiz'd me to a Tree.

Of Mr. Gyles's Family in particular.

The Indians came to *New-Harbour*, and sent Spies several Days to observe how and where the People were employed &c. who found that the Men were generally at Work at Noon, and left about their Houses only Women and Children: therefore the Indians divided themselves into several Parties, some Ambushing the Way between the Fort and the Houses, as likewise between them and the distant Fields; and then alarming the farthest off first, they kill'd and took the People, as they moved toward the Town and Fort, at their Pleasure; so that very few escaped to the Fort. Mr. *Pateshall* was taken and kill'd as he lay with his Sloop near the *Barbican*. On the first stir about the Fort my youngest Brother was at Play near the same, and ran in, and so by God's Goodness was preserved. Capt. *Weems* with great Courage & Resolution defended the weak

Of the Town and Fort in general [illegible]

old

old Fort two Days, till that he was much Wounded and the beſt of his Men Kill'd, and then beat up a Parley. And the Conditions were,

1. That they, the Indians ſhould give him Mr. *Poteſhall's* Sloop.

2 That they ſhould not moleſt him in carrying off the few People that had got into the Fort, and three Captives that they had taken.

3 That the Engliſh ſhould carry off in their Hands what they could from the Fort.

On theſe Conditions the Fort was Surrendred, and Capt. *Weems* went off. And ſoon after the Indians ſet on Fire the Fort & Houſes: which made a terrible Blaſt, and was a melancholly Sight to us poor Captives, who were ſad Spectators!

SECT. III. Of the Tranſportation of the Captives to *Penobſcot*, the neareſt Indian-Village Eaſtward of *Pemmaquid*.

After the Indians had thus laid Waſte *Pemmaquid*, they moved us all to *New-Harbour* *. And when we turned our Backs on the Town my Heart was ready to break!--- I ſaw my Mother; ſhe ſpake to me, but I could not anſwer her! That Night we tarried at *New-Harbour*, and the next Day went in their Canoes for *Penobſcot*. About Noon, the Canoe which my Mother, and that which I was in, came ſide by ſide: whether accidental or by my Mother's deſire, I cannot ſay. She asked me, How I did? I think I ſaid, Pretty well, (tho' my Heart was full of Grief). Then ſhe ſaid, O, my Child! how joyful & pleaſant would it be, if we were going to *Old England*, to ſee your Uncle *Chalker*, and other Friends there? ---Poor Babe! we are going into the Wilderneſs, the Lord knows where! --- She burſt into Tears, and the Canoes parted! That Night following the Indians with their Captives lodged on an Iſland. A few days after, we arrived at *Penobſcot-Fort*; where I again ſaw my Mother, my Brother and Siſters, and many other Captives. I think, we tarried here eight Days: and in that time the Jeſuit had a great mind to buy me. My Indian Maſter

* *New Harbour* is about two Miles Eaſt of *Pemmaquid*, a ſmall Harbour, much uſed by Fiſhermen. Before the War there were about twelve Houſes, but the rumour of War, diſpoſed them to ſecure themſelves, by forſaking their Habitations.

made

made a Visit to the Jesuit, and carried me with him †. I saw the Jesuit shew him Pieces of Gold, and understood afterward, that he tendered them for me. The Jesuit gave me a Bisket, which I put into my Pocket, and dare not eat; but buried it under a Log, fearing that he had put something in it to make me Love him: for I was very Young, and had heard much of the Papists torturing the Protestants &c. so that I hated the sight of a Jesuit. When my Mother heard the talk of my being Sold to a Jesuit, she said to me, Oh! my dear Child! if it were GOD's Will, I had rather follow you to your Grave! or never see you more in this World, than you should be Sold to a Jesuit: for a Jesuit will ruin you Body & Soul! and it pleased GOD to grant her Request, for she never saw me more! [Tho' she and my two little Sisters were, after several Years Captivity redeem'd; she died before I returned: And my Brother who was taken with me, was after several Years Captivity most barbarously tortured to Death, by the Indians]. For

SECT. IV. Of the Occurrences in my passing from *Penobscot* to *St. John's*, where the next Eastern Tribe have their Rendezvous.

My Indian Master carried me up *Penobscot River* to a Village called *Madawamkee*: which stands on a Point of Land, between the Main River, and a Branch which heads to the East of it. At Home I had ever seen Strangers treated with the utmost Civility, and being a Stranger, I expected some kind Treatment here: but soon found my self deceived, for I presently saw a Number of Squaws got together in a Circle dancing and yelling; and an old grimace-Squaw took me by the Hand, and lead me to the Ring, where the other Squaws seiz'd me by the Hair of my Head, and by my Hands and Feet, like so many Furies: but my Indian Master presently laid down a Pledge and releas'd me. A Captive among the Indians is exposed to all manner of Abuse, and to the utmost Tortures; unless his Master, or some of his Master's Relations, lay down a Ransom, such as a Bag of Corn, or a Blanket, or such like: by which they may redeem them from their Cruelties for that Dance, so that he shall not be touch'd by any.

Their Custom of Torturing Captives, and of redeeming them from the Insults at Dances.

† The Indian that takes and will keep a Captive is accounted his Master, and the Captive his Property till he give or sell him to another.

The next Day we went up that Eaſtern Branch of *Penobſcot River* many Leagues,---carried over Land to a large Pond, and from one Pond to another, till, in a few Days we went down a River ||, which vents it ſelf into *St. John's River*. But before we came to the Mouth of this River, we carried over a long Carrying-Place ‡ to *Medoctack-Fort*, which ſtands on a Bank of *St. John's River*. My Indian Maſter went before, and left me with an old Indian and two or three Squaws. The Old Man often ſaid, (which was all the Engliſh that he could ſpeak,) *By and by-- come to a great Town and Fort*: ſo that I comforted my ſelf in thinking how finely I ſhould be refreſhed &c. when I came to this great Town.

SECT. V. Of my Treatment at my Arrival at *Medoctack* on *St. John's River*.

After ſome Miles travel we came in ſight of a large Corn-Field, and ſoon after of the Fort, to my great Surprize: for two or three Squaws met us, took off my Pack, and lead me to a large Hutt or Wigwam, where Thirty or Forty Indians were dancing and yelling round five or ſix poor Captives, who had been taken ſome Months before from *Quochecho*, at the ſame time when Major *Waldein* was moſt barbarouſly butchered by them *. I was whirl'd in among

|| *Medocktack River.*

‡ A Carrying-Place is a Path or Track in which they paſs from one River, or part of a River or Pond to another: 'tis ſo called, becauſe the Indians are obliged to carry their Baggage over them.

* Major *Waldein* was taken in the beginning of *April* on the Night after a Sabbath. I have heard the Indians ſay at a Feaſt, that there being a Truce for ſome Days, they contriv'd to ſend in two Squaws to take Notice of the Numbers, Lodgings and other Circumſtances of the People in his Garriſon, and if they could obtain leave to Lodge there, to open the Gates and Whiſtle. [They ſaid the Gates had no Locks, but were faſtned with Pins, and that they kept no Watch there] The Squaws had a favourable Seaſon to proſecute their Projection, for it was dull Weather when they came, and begg'd leave to Lodge in the Garriſon: they told the Major that a great Number of Indians were not far from them, with conſiderable Quantities of Beaver, who would Trade with him the next Day &c. Some of the People were very much againſt their Lodging in the Garriſon, but the Major ſaid, Let the poor Creatures Lodge by the Fire! The Squaws went into every Apartment, and obſerved the Numbers in each, and when the People were all aſleep, roſe and opened the Gates, and gave the Signal, and the other Indians

came

among them, and we look'd on each other with a forrowful Countenance: and presently one of them was seiz'd by each Hand & Foot, by four Indians, who swung him up and let his Back with Force fall on the hard Ground, 'till they had danced (as they call it) round the whole Wigwam, which was thirty or forty Feet in length. But when they torture a Boy, they take him up between two. This is one of their Customs of torturing Captives. Another is to take up a Person by the middle with his Head downwards, and jolt him round 'till one would think his Boweis would shake out of his Mouth. Sometimes they will take a Captive by the Hair of the Head and [illegible] him forward, and strike him on the Back & Shoulder, 'till the Blood gush out of his Mouth & Nose. Sometimes an old shrivell'd Squaw will take up a Shovel of hot Embers and throw them into a Captive's Bosom; and if he cry out, the other Indians will Laugh and Shout, and say, What a brave Action our old Grandmother has done! Sometimes they torture them with Whips &c.

The Indians look'd on me with a fierce Countenance, signifying that it would be my turn next. They champ'd Corn-Stalks, and threw them in my Hat, which was in my Hand: I smiled on them, tho' my Heart ak'd. I look'd on one and another, but could not perceive that any Eye pitied me: Presently came a Squaw and a little Girl,

---

came to them, and having receiv'd an Account of the State of the Garrison, they divided according to the Number of People in each Apartment, and soon took and kill'd them all. The Major lodged within an inner Room, and when the Indians broke in upon him, he cried out, What now! What now! jumpt out of Bed in his Shirt, and drave them out with his Sword thro' two or three Doors: and as he was returning to his Apartment, an Indian came behind him, and knock'd him on the Head with his Hatchet, stun'd him, and hal'd him out, and laid him upon a long Table in his Hall, and bid him, Judge Indians again. Then they cut and stab'd him, and he cry'd out, O Lord! O Lord! — They bid him order his Book of Accompts to be brought, and cross out all the Indian Debts (for he had traded much with the Indians) and after they had tortured him to Death, they burned the Garrison and drew off. This Narration I heard from their Mouths at a general Meeting; and have Reason to think it true. And it should be a Warning to all Persons who have the Care of Garrisons: For the greatest Losses we meet with are for want of due Caution and Circumspection.

and

and laid down a Bag of Corn in the Ring; the little Girl took me by the Hand, making Signs for me to go out of the Circle with them; but not knowing their Custom, I supposed that they designed to kill me, and would not go out with them. Then a grave Indian came and gave me a short Pipe, and said, in English, Smoke it: then took me by the Hand and lead me out, but my Heart aked, thinking my self near my End; but he carried me to a French Hutt about a Mile from the Indian Fort. The Frenchman was not at Home; but his Wife who was a Squaw had some Discourse with my Indian Friend, which I did not understand. We tarried about two Hours, and return'd to the Village, where they gave me some Victuals. Not long after, I saw one of my Fellow-Captives, who gave me a melancholly Account of their Sufferings, after I left them &c.

Sect. VI. After some Weeks had past we left the Village, and went up *St. John's River* about ten Miles to a Branch called *Medockscencasis*, where there was one Wigwam. At our Arrival an old Squaw saluted me with a Yell, taking me by the Hair and one Hand; but I was so rude as to break her hold, and 'quit my self: --She gave me a filthy Grin, and the Indians set up a Laugh---so it pass'd over. Here we lived upon Fish, Wild-Grapes, Roots &c. which was hard Living to me.

Sect. VII. The first Winter's Hunting. When the Winter came on, we went up the River till the Ice came down, and run thick in the River; and then, according to the Indian Custom, laid up our Canoes till the Spring; and then travell'd sometimes on the Ice, & sometimes on the Land, till we came to a River that was open and not Fordable, where we made a Raft, and pass'd over Bag and Baggage *. I met with no Abuse from them in this Winter's Hunting, tho' I was put to great Hardships in carrying Burdens, and for want of Food: for they underwent the same Difficulty, and would often encourage me,

* For the Indians carry their House and Household Stuff on their Backs in the Winter, and to these they add, in the Summer, their Vessels and Furniture, Provisions &c.

saying

saying, in broken English, *By-by--great dear Moose*. But they could not answer any Question that I asked them. So that knowing nothing of their Customs and way of Life; tho' I tho't it tedious to be constantly moving from Place to Place, yet it might be in some respects an Advantage, for it ran in my Mind that we were travelling to some Settlement; and when my Burden was over heavy, and the Indians left me behind, and the dull Evening came on, I fancied I could see thro' the Bushes, and hear the People of some great Town: which Hope might be some support to me in the Day, tho' I found not the Town at Night. Thus we have been Hunting three hundred Miles from the Sea and knew no Man within fifty or sixty Miles of us. We were eight or ten in Number, and had but two Indian Men with Guns, on whom we wholly depended for Food: and if any disaster had happened, we must all have perished. And sometimes we had no manner of Sustenance for three or four Days. But GOD wonderfully provides for all Creatures. In one of those Fasts GOD's Providence was remarkable. Our two Indian Men, in Hunting, traited a Moose*, their being a shallow-crusted Snow on the Ground; but the Moose discovered them, and ran with great force into a Swamp: The Indians went round the Swamp, and finding no Tract, return'd at Night to the Wigwam, and told what had happened. The next Morning they followed him on the Track, and soon found the Moose lying on the Snow; for crossing the Roots of a large Tree, that had been blown up by the Roots, having Ice underneath, the Moose in his furious Flight broke thro', and hitch'd one of his hind Legs in among the Roots, so fast that by striving

* A Moose is a very lofty Creature and is eight Feet high, with a long Head and a Neck like a Horse, with Horns very large and strong (Some of them are above six Feet, from the Extremity of one Horn to that of the other) shaped and shed every Year like the Horns of a Deer. Like as their Feet are cloven like Deers Feet. Their hind Legs are long and fore Legs short like a Rabbit. They resemble a Rabbit also in the Length of their Ears, and shortness of their Tail. The Female have two Dugs like a Mare, tho' they sometimes bring three young Ones at a Birth: they foal but once a Year, and at one Season, viz. When the Trees put out their Leaves, for them. There are a sort of Moose that have a Mane like a Horse.

to get it out, he pull'd the Thigh Bone out of the Socket at the Hip : Thus extraordinarily were we provided for in our great Strait. Sometimes they would take a Bear, which go into Dens in the Fall of the Year without any ſort of Food, and lie there without any four or five Months, never going out till the Spring of the Year : in which Time they neither loſe nor gain in Fleſh ; if they went into their Dens Fat, they will come out ſo, or if they went in Lean, they will come out Lean. I have ſeen ſome that have come out, with four Whelps, and both Old & Young very fat †, and then we feaſted : and an old Squaw, and Captive, if any preſent, muſt ſtand without the Wigwam, ſhaking their Hands and Body as in a Dance : and ſinging, WTOAGE OH NELO WOH ! which if Engliſhed would be, *Fat is my Eating.* This is to ſignify their thankfulneſs in feaſting Times ! and when this was ſpent, we faſted till further Succeſs.

The way of their preſerving Meat is by ſtripping off the Fleſh from the Bones, and drying them over a Smoke ; by which 'tis kept ſound Months or Years, without Salt.

We moved ſtill further up the Country after Mooſe when our Store was out : ſo that by the Spring we had got to the Northward of the *Lady Mountains.* And when the Spring came on and the Rivers broke up, we moved back to the Head of *St. John's River* ; and there made Canoes of Mooſe-Hides ſewing three or four together, and pitching the Seams with Charcoal beaten and mixt with Balſom. Then we went down the River to a Place call'd *Madaweſcoḱ* ; there an Old Man lived and kept a ſort of Trading-Houſe : where we tarried ſeveral Days, and went farther down the River till we came to the greateſt Falls in theſe Parts, called *Checanekepeag* : where we carried a little way over the Land, and putting off our Canoes, we went down Stream ſtill : And as we paſs'd down by the Mouth of any large Branches, we ſaw Indians : but when any Dance

† *Guillim* in his Heraldry mentions it as the Opinion of ſome Naturaliſts, that they bring forth an Unform'd Embryo, and lick their Litter into Shape : --- a groſs Miſtake ! I have ſeen their Fœtus of all Sizes, taken out of the Matrix, by the Indians, and they are as much, and as well Shap'd as the Young of any Animal.

was

was propoſed, I was bought off. At length we arrived at the Place, where we left our Birch Canoes in the Fall, and put our Baggage into them, and went in them down to the Fort.

There we planted Corn; and after Planting, went a Fiſhing, and to look for and dig Roots; till the Corn was fit to Weed: and after Weeding took a ſecond Tour on the ſame Errand, and return'd to Hill our Corn: and after Hilling, we went ſome diſtance from the Fort & Field up the River, to take Salmon, and other Fiſh, and dry them for Food till Corn was fill'd with the Milk: Some of which we dried then, the other as it ripened. And when we had gathered our Corn and dried it, we put ſome in to Indian Barns, i. e. in Holes in the Ground lin'd & cover'd with Bark, and then with Dirt. The reſt we carried up the River upon our next Winter-Hunting. Thus GOD wonderfully favoured me and carried me through the firſt Year of my Captivity.

CHAP. II.

Of the abuſive and barbarous Treatment which ſeveral Captives met with from the Indians &c.

WHen any great Number of Indians meet, or when any Captives have been lately taken, or when any Captives deſert and are retaken, the Indians have a Dance; and at theſe Dances torture the unhappy People who fall into their Hands. My unfortunate Brother who was taken with me, after about three Years Captivity, deſerted with

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When the Corn is in the Milk they gather a large Kettle of it and boil it on the Ears till it's pretty hard, and then take it up and ſhell it off the Cobb with Clam-Shells, and dry it on Bark in the Sun; and when it is throughly dryed, a Kernel is no bigger than a Pea, and would keep Years and boil'd again it ſwells as large, and taſtes incomparably ſweeter than other Corn.

an Engliſhman who was taken from *Caſco-Bay*, and was retaken by the Indians at *New-Harbour* and carried back to *Penobſcot Fort*: where they were both tortured at a Stake by Fire for ſome time, then their Noſes and Ears were cut off, and they made to eat them; after which they were burned to Death at the Stake: The Indians at the ſame time declaring that they would ſerve all Deſerters in the ſame manner. Thus they divert themſelves in their Dances!

SECT. II. Of their Barbarity to *James Alexander*, &c.

On the ſecond Spring of my Captivity my Indian Maſter and his Squaw went to *Canada*; but ſent me down the River, with ſeveral Indians to the Fort; in order to plant Corn. The Day before we came to the Planting Field we met two Young Indian Men who ſeem'd to be in great haſte: after they had paſs'd us I underſtood that they were going with an Expreſs to *Canada*, and that there was an Engliſh Veſſel at the Mouth of the River. I not perfect in the Language, nor knowing that Engliſh Veſſels traded with them in time of War, ſuppoſed a Peace was concluded on, and that the Captives would be releaſed: and was ſo tranſported with the Fancy, that I ſlept but little, if at all, that Night. Early the next Morning we came to the Village, where the Extaſy ended: For I had no ſooner Landed, but three or four Indians drag'd me to the great Wigwam, where they were yelling and dancing round *James Alexander*, a Jerſey Man, who was taken from *Falmouth* in *Caſco Bay*. This was occaſioned by two Families of *Cape Sable* Indians, who having loſt ſome Friends by a number of Engliſh Fiſhermen, came ſome hundred of Miles to revenge themſelves on the poor Captives! They ſoon came to me, & toſſed me about till I was almoſt breathleſs, & then threw me into the Ring to my fellow Captive: and took him out again, and repeated their Barbarities to him. And then I was hal'd out again by three Indians, by the Hair of my Head, and held down by it, till one beat me on the Back & Shoulders ſo long that my Breath was almoſt beat out of my Body. And then others put a Tomhake into my Hand, and order'd me get up and dance and ſing Indian: which I perform'd with the greateſt reluctance, and in the Act ſeem'd reſolute to purchaſe my Death, by killing two or three of thoſe Monſters of Cruelty; thinking

thinking it impossible to survive their bloody Treatment, but it was impress'd on my Mind, *'Tis not in your Power to take away your Life*: so I desisted. Then these *Cat Sable* Indians came to me again like Bears bereaved of their Whelps, saying, *Shall we who have lost Relations by the English, suffer an English Voice to be heard among us &c.* Then they beat me again with the Axe: Then I repented that I had not sent two or three of them out of the World before me, for I tho't that I had much rather die than suffer any longer. They left me the second time, and the other Indians put the Tomhake ‖ into my Hand again, and compelled me to sing: and then I seem'd more resolute than before to destroy some of them; but a strange and strong Impulse that I should return to my own Place & People, suppress'd it as often as such a motion rose in my Breast. Not one of the Indians shew'd the least Compassion: but I saw the Tears run down plentifully on the Cheeks of a Frenchman that sat behind; which did not alleviate the Tortures that poor *James* and I were forced to endure for the most part of this tedious Day; for they were continued till the Evening: and were the most severe that ever I met with in the whole six Years that I was Captive with the Indians. --- After they had thus inhumanely abused us, two Indians took us up and threw us out of the Wigwam, and we crawled away on our Hands & Feet, & were scarce able to walk, &c. for several Days. Some time after they again concluded on a merry Dance, when I was at some distance from the Wigwam dressing Leather, and an Indian was so kind as to tell me that they had got *James Alexander*, and were in search for me. My Indian Master and his Squaw bid me run as for my Life into a Swamp and hide, and not to discover my self unless they both came to me, for then I might be assured the Dance was over. I was now master of their Language, and a Word or a Wink was enough to excite me to take care of One. Fran to the Swamp, and hid in the thickest place that I could find. I heard hollowing and whooping all around me; sometimes they pass'd very near,

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‖ The Tomhake is a Warlike Club, the Shape of which may be seen in Cutts of *Etowolkoam*, one of the four Indian Chiefs, which Cutts are common amongst us.

and I could hear some threaten, and others flatter me, but I was not disposd to dance: and if they had come upon me, I resolv'd to show them a pair of Heels, and they must have had good luck to have catch'd me. I heard no more of them till about Evening [for I think I slept] when they came again, calling *Choa*, *Choa*, but *John* would not trust them. After they were gone, my Master and his Squaw came where they told me to hide, but could not find me; and when I heard them say with some concern, that they believ'd that the other Indians had frightned me into the Woods, and that I was lost; I came out, and they seem'd well pleas'd: and told me, that *James* had had a bad Day of it; that as soon as he was releas'd he ran away into the Woods, & they believ'd he was gone to the *Mohawks*. *James* soon returned, & gave me a melancholly Account of his Sufferings: and the Indians fright concerning the *Mohawks* pass'd over. They often had terrible apprehension of the Incursion of the *Mohawks* *. One very hot Season a great Number gathered together at the Village; and being a very droughty People, they kept *James* and my self Night and Day fetching Water from a Cold Spring, that ran out of a rocky Hill about three Quarters of a Mile from the Fort. In going thither, we cross'd a large Interval-Corn-Field, and then a Descent to a lower Interval before we ascended the Hill to the Spring. *James* being almost dead as well I, with this continual Fatigue, contriv'd to fright the Indians: he told me of it, but conjur'd me to Secrecy, yet said, he knew that I could keep Counsel. The next dark Night *James* going for Water, set his Kettle on the descent to the lowest Interval; and ran back to the Fort, puffing & blowing, as in the utmost Surprize; and told his Master that he saw something near the Spring, that look'd like *Mohawks*: [which he said were only Stumps—aside] his Master being a most couragious Warrior, went with *James* to make discovery, and when they came to the brow of the Hill, *James* pointed to the Stumps, and withal touch'd his Kettle with

A little Comedy with your Tragedy.

* These are called also *Maquas*, a most ambitious, haughty and blood thirsty People: from whom the other Indians take their Measures and Manners: and their Modes and Changes of Dress &c.

his

his Toe, which gave it motion down Hill, and at every turn of the Kettle the Bail clattered; upon which *James* and his Master could see a *Mohawk* in every Stump on motion, *and turn'd Tail to*, and he was the best Man that could run fastest. This alarm'd all the Indians in the Village. They tho' about thirty or forty in number, pack'd off Bag and Baggage, some up the River and others down: and did not return under fifteen Days, and the heat of the Weather being finely over, our hard Service abated for this Season. I never heard that the Indians understood the Occasion of the Fright, but *James* and I had many a private Laugh about it.

SECT. III. Of *John Evans*'s his Difficulties and Death &c.

But my most intimate and dear Companion was one *John Evans*, a Young Man taken from *Quochecho*. We as often as we could, met together, and made known our Grievances to each other, which seem'd to ease our Minds: but when it was known by the Indians, we were strictly examined apart, and falsely accused, that we were contriving to desert; but we were too far from the Sea to have any tho't of that: and when they found that our Story agreed, we received no Punishment. An English Captive Girl about this time, (who was taken by *Medocawando*) would often falsely accuse us of plotting to desert, but we made the Truth so plainly appear, that she was check'd and we released. But the third Winter of my Captivity, he went into the Country, and the Indians imposed a heavy Burden on him, tho' he was extream Weak with long Fasting: and as he was going off the Upland over a Place of Ice which was very hollow he broke thro', fell down & cut his Knee very much, notwithstanding he travelled for some time: but the Wind and Cold were so forceable, that they soon overcame him, and he sat or fell down, & all the Indians pass'd by him: some of them went back the next Day after him, or his Pack, and found him, with a Dog in his Arms, both froze as stiff as a Stake. And all my fellow Captives, were dispersed and dead: but thro' infinite & unmeritedness Goodness I was supported under, and carried thro' all Difficulties.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of further Difficulties and Deliverances.

Sect. I. Of a near escape from Death by Cold.

ONE Winter as we were moving from Place to Place, our Hunters kill'd some Moose; and one lying some Miles from our Wigwams, a Young Indian & my self were ordered to fetch part of it. We set out in the Morning when the Weather was promising, but it proved a very Cold, Cloudy Day: It was late in the Evening we arrived at the Place where the Moose lay: so that we had no time to provide Materials for Fire or Shelter. At the same time a Storm came on very thick of Snow, and continued till the next Morning. We made a small Fire with what little Rubbish we could find around us, which with the heat of our Bodies melted the Snow upon us as fast as it fell, and fill'd our Cloaths with Water. Nevertheless, early in the Morning, we took our Loads of Moose-Flesh, and set out, in order to return to our Wigwams: We had not travelled far before my Moose-Skin Coat (which was the only Garment that I had on my Back, and the Hair was in most Places worn off) was froze stiff round my Knees like a Hoop, as likewise my Snow-shoes & Shoe-clouts to my Feet! Thus I march'd the whole Day without Fire or Food! at first I was in great Pain, then my Flesh numb'd, and I felt at times extream Sick, and tho't I could not travel one foot further; but wonderfully reviv'd again. After long travelling I felt very drowsy, & had thoughts of setting down; which had I done, without doubt I had fall'n on my final Sleep; as my dear Companion, *Evans*, had done before; for my Indian Companion, being better Cloath'd, had left me long before: but again my Spirits reviv'd as much as if I had receiv'd the richest Cordial! Some Hours after Sun-set I recovered the Wigwam, and crawl'd in with my Snow-shoes on. The Indians cry'd out, *The Captive is froze to Death!* They took off my Pack, and where that lay against my Back was the only Place that was not frozen. The Indians cut off my Shoes, and stript the Clouts from my Feet, which were as void of feeling as any frozen Flesh could be: but I had not sat long by the Fire, before the Blood began to circulate,

culate, and my Feet to my Ankles turn'd black, & swelled with bloody Blisters, and were inexpressibly painful. The Indians said one to another, *His Feet will rot, and he'll die.* Nevertheless, I slept well at Night. Soon after the Skin came off my Feet from my Ankles whole like a Shoe, and left my Toes naked without a Nail, and the ends of my great Toe-Bones bare, which in a little time turn'd black, so that I was obliged to cut the first Joint off with my Knife. The Indians gave me Rags to bind up my Feet, & advis'd me to apply Fir-balsom, but withal said, that they believ'd it was not worth while to use means, for I should certainly die. But by the use of my Elbows and a Stick in each Hand, I shov'd my self on my Bottom, over the Snow, from one Tree to another, till I got some Fir-balsom, then burn'd it in a Clam-shell till it was of a consistence like Salve, and apply'd it to my Feet and Ankles, and by the divine Blessing within a Week I could go about upon my Heels with my Staff. And thro' GOD's goodness, we had Provision enough, so that we did not remove under ten or fifteen Days, and then the Indians made two little Hoops something in Form as a Snow-shoe, and seiz'd them to my Feet: and I follow'd them in their Track on my Heels from Place to Place; sometimes half Leg deep in Snow & Water, which gave me the most acute Pain imaginable, but I was forced to walk or die. But within a Year my Feet were intirely well, & the Nails came on my great Toes: so that a very critical Eye, could scarce perceive any part missing, or that they had been froze at all!

In a Time of great scarcity of Provisions, the Indians chas'd a large Moose into the River and kill'd him; and brought the Flesh to the Village, and laid it on a Scaffold in a large Wigwam, in order to make a Feast. I was very officious in supplying them with Wood & Water, which pleased them so well, that they now & then gave me a piece of Flesh half boil'd or roasted, which I did eat with eagerness: and I doubt without great Thankfulness to the divine BEING, who so extraordinarily fed me! ---At length the Scaffold broke, and one large Piece fell and knock'd me on the Head [the Indians said that I lay stun'd a considerable time] the first

SECT. II. [illegible] Scaffold on my Head.

I was ſenſible of was a murmuring Noiſe in my Ears, then my Sight gradually return'd, with an extream Pain in my Head, which was very much bruiſed, and it was long before I recovered, the Weather being very Hot.

SECT. III. From drowning by the overſetting of a Canoe.

I was once with an Indian fiſhing for Sturgeon, the Indian darting one, his Feet ſlipt and turn'd the Canoe bottom upwards, with me under it; holding faſt the Croſs-bar (for I could not Swim) with my Face to the bottom of the Canoe. But I turn'd my ſelf and bro't my Breaſt to bear on the Croſs-bar: expecting every Minute, that the Indian wou'd have tow'd me to the Bank: *But he had other Fiſh to Fry!* Thus I continued a quarter of an Hour without want of Breath, ſounding for Bottom, till the Current drove me on a Rocky Point, where I could reach Bottom; there I ſtop'd and turn'd up my Canoe. I look'd for the Indian, and he was half a Mile diſtant up the River. I went to him, and ask'd, Why he did not tow me to the Bank, ſeeing he knew that I could not Swim? He ſaid he knew that I was under the Canoe, for there were no Bubbles any where to be ſeen, & that I ſhould drive on the Point: therefore he took care of his fine Sturgeon, which was eight or ten Feet long.

SECT. IV. Another Inſtance of preſervation from drowning.

---Fiſhing for Salmon at the Fall of about fifteen Feet of Water, there being a deep Hole at the foot of the Fall; the Indians went into the Water to waſh themſelves, & asked me to go in with them. I told them that I could not Swim. They bid me ſtrip [which was done] and dive acroſs the deepeſt Place, and if I fell ſhort of the other ſide, they ſaid they would help me. But inſtead of diving acroſs the narroweſt, I was crawling on the bottom into the deepeſt Place: but not ſeeing me riſe, and knowing where-abouts I was, by the bubling of the Water; a young Girl, dove into the Water, and ſeizing me by the Hair of my Head, drew me out: otherwiſe I had periſhed in the Water †.

† Tho' both Male and Female may be in the Water at a Time, they have each of them more or leſs of their Cloaths on, and behave with the utmoſt Chaſtity and Modeſty.

While

While at the Indian Village, I had been cutting Wood, and was binding it up with an Indian-Rope in order to carry it to the Wigwam, when a ſtout, ill-natur'd young Fellow about 20 Years of Age, threw me backward, ſat on my Breaſt, and pulling out his Knife, ſaid that he would kill me, for he had never yet kill'd an Engliſh Perſon. I told him that he might go to Wars, and that would be more Manly, than to kill a poor Captive who was doing their Drudgery for them. Notwithſtanding all that I could ſay, he began to cut & ſtab me on my Breaſt. I ſeiz'd him by the Hair, & tumbled him from off me on his Back, & follow'd him with my Fiſt and Knee ſo, that he preſently ſaid he had enough; but when I ſaw the Blood run & felt the Smart, I at him again and bid him get up and not lie there like a Dog,---told him of his former Abuſes offered to me & other poor Captives, and that if ever he offered the like to me again, I would pay him double. I ſent him before me, took up my Burden of Wood, & came to the Indians and told them the whole Truth; and they commended me: And I don't remember that ever he offered me the leaſt Abuſe afterward; tho' he was big enough to have diſpatched two of me. I pray GOD! I may never be forgetful of his wonderful Goodneſs! and that theſe Inſtances may excite others in their Adverſities to make their Addreſſes to the Almighty; and put their Confidence in Him in the uſe of proper Means.

CHAP. IV.

Of remarkable Events of Providence in the Deaths of ſeveral barbarous Indians.

SECT. I. The Deaths of thoſe Savage *Cape-Sable* Indians mentioned, Ch. II. Sect. II.

THE Prieſt of this River, was of the order *St. Francis*, a Gentleman of a humane, generous Diſpoſition: in his Sermons he moſt ſeverely reprehended the Indians for their Barbarities to the Captives: he would often tell them, that, excepting their Errors in Religion, the Engliſh were a better People than themſelves; and that God would remarkably puniſh ſuch cruel Wretches, and had begun to

execute

execute his Vengeance upon ſuch! He gave an Account of the Retaliations of Providence to thoſe murderous *Cape-Sable* Indians above mentioned. One of whom ran a Splinter into his Foot, which feſter'd and rotted his Fleſh till it kill'd him. Another ran a Fiſh-bone into her Hand or Arm, and ſhe rotted to Death, notwithſtanding all Means that were uſed. In ſome ſuch manner they all died, ſo that not one of thoſe two Families lived to return home. Were it not for this Remark of the Prieſt, I ſhould not, perhaps, have made the Obſervation.

SECT. II. Of a Barbarous Old Squaw.

There was an old Squaw who ever endeavoured to outdo all others in Cruelty to Captives. Where-ever ſhe came into a Wigwam, where any poor naked ſtarved Captives were ſitting near the Fire; if they were grown Perſons, ſhe would privately take up a Shovel of hot Coals, & throw them into their Boſom; or Young Ones, ſhe would take by the Hand or Leg, and drag them thro' the Fire &c. The Indians according to their Cuſtom left their Village in the Fall of the Year and diſperſed themſelves for Hunting, and after the firſt or ſecond removal, they all ſtrangely forgat that old Squaw and her Grandſon about Twelve Years of Age. They were found dead in the Place where they were left, ſome Months afterward, and no further notice taken of them. This was very much obſerved by the Prieſt; and ſeem'd ſtrange to all that heard it, for the Indians were generally very careful not to leave their Old or Young!

SECT. III. Of a Plague among them.

In the latter part of Summer, or beginning of Autumn, the Indians were frequently frighted by the Appearance of ſtrange Indians paſſing up & down this River in Canoes, and about that Time the next Year died more than One Hundred Perſons of Old & Young: all or moſt of thoſe that ſaw thoſe ſtrange Indians! The Prieſt ſaid, that it was a ſort of Plague. A Perſon ſeeming in perfect Health, would bleed at the Mouth & Noſe, turn blue in Spots, and die in two or three Hours [It was very tedious to me who was forced to move from Place to Place this cold Seaſon. The Indians applied red Oker to my Sores, which by GOD's Bleſſing cured me.] The Indians all ſcattered, it being at the

the worst as Winter came on; and the Blow was so great that the Indians did not Settle or Plant at the Village while I was on the River, and I know not whether they have to this Day!

Before they thus deserted the Village, when they came in from Hunting, they would be drunk and fight for several Days and Nights together, till they had spent most of their Skins in Wine & Brandy, which was brought to the Village by a French Man, call'd Monsieur *Sgenioncer.*

CHAP. V.

Of their Familiarity with, & Frights from the Devil &c.

THE Indians are very often surprized with the Appearance of Ghosts & Demons; and sometimes encouraged by the Devil, for they go to him for Success in Hunting &c. I was once Hunting with Indians who were not brought over to the Romish Faith: and after several Days Hunting they proposed to inquire, according to their Custom, what Success they should have. They accordingly prepared many Hot-Stones, and laid them in an heap, & made a small Hutt covered with Skins & Matts, and then in the dark Night two of the Powaws went into this Hot-House with a large Vessel of Water, which at Times they poured on those hot Rocks, which raised a thick Steam, so that a third Indian was oblig'd to stand without, and lift up a Matt, to give it vent when they were almost suffocated. There was an old Squaw who was kind to Captives, and never join'd with them in their Powawing, to whom I manifested an earnest desire to see their Management: She told me, that if they knew of my being there, they would kill me, and that when she was a Girl, she had known Young Persons to be taken away by an hairy Man: and therefore she would not advise me to go, lest the hairy Man should carry me away. I told her that I was not afraid of that hairy Man, nor could he hurt me if she would not discover me to the Powaws. At length she promised that she would not, but charged me to be careful of my self.—I went within three or four Feet of the Hot-House, for it was very dark, and heard strange

SECT. I. Of their Powawing.

Noiſes & Yellings, ſuch as I never heard before. At Times the Indian who tended without would lift up the Matt, and a Steam riſe up, which look'd like Fire in the dark. I lay there two or three Hours, but ſaw none of their hairy Men or Demons: And when I found that they had finiſhed their Ceremony, I went to the Wigwam, and told the Squaw what had paſs'd; who was glad that I return'd without hurt; and never diſcover'd what I had done. After ſome time, inquiry was made, what Succeſs we were like to have in our Hunting? The Powaws ſaid, that they had very likely Signs of Succeſs, but no real, viſible Appearance as at other Times. A few Days after, we moved up the River, and had pretty good Succeſs.

One Afternoon as I was in a Canoe with one of the Powaws, the Dog bark'd, and preſently a Mooſe paſs'd by, within a few Rods of us, ſo that the Waves which he made by wading roll'd our Canoe; the Indian ſhot at him, but the Mooſe took very little notice of it, and went into the Woods to the Southward: the Fellow ſaid, *I'll try if I can't fetch you back, for all your haſte.* The Evening following, we built our two Wigwams on a Sandy Point on the upper End of an Iſland in the River, Northweſt of the Place where the Mooſe went into the Woods: and the Indian powaw'd the greateſt part of the Night following, and in the Morning we had the fair track of a Mooſe, round our Wigwams, tho' we did not ſee or taſte of it. --- I am of Opinion, that the Devil was permitted to humour thoſe unhappy Wretches ſometimes, in ſome things.

SECT. II. An Inſtance of the Devil's frighting the Indians.

An Indian being ſome Miles from his Wigwam, and the Weather being warm, he ſuppoſed the Hedge-Hogs would come out of their Den, he way-laid the Mouth of it till late at Night. [See Chap. 6. Sect. 3.] They not coming out as uſual, he was going home, but had not paſſed far, before he ſaw a Light like a Blaze, at a little diſtance before him, and darting his Spear at it, it diſappeared; then on the Bank of the River, he heard a loud Laughter, with a noiſe like a ratling in a Man's Throat. The Indian rail'd at the Demon whom he ſuppos'd made the Noiſe, calling it a rotten Spirit of no Subſtance &c. He continued to hear the Noiſe

Noiſe and ſee the Light 'till he came into the Wigwam, which he entred, in his hunting Habit, with Snow-ſhoes and all on; ſo frighted, that, it was ſome time before he could ſpeak to relate what had happened.

That it may further appear how much they were deluded, or under the Influence of Satan, read two Stories which were related and believed by the Indians. SECT. III. Two Indian Fables.

The firſt; of a Boy who was carried away by a large Bird called a *Gulloua*, who buildeth her Neſt on an high Rock or Mountain. A Boy was Hunting with his Bow & Arrow at the Foot of a Rocky Mountain, when the *Gulloua* came diving thro' the Air, graſp'd the Boy in her Talons; and tho' he was eight or ten Years of Age, ſhe ſoar'd aloft, and laid him in her Neſt, a Prey for her Young; where the Boy lay conſtantly on his Face, but would look ſometimes under his Arms and ſaw two Young Ones with much Fiſh and Fleſh in the Neſt, and the old Bird conſtantly bringing more. So that the young Ones not touching him, the old One claw'd him up and ſet him where ſhe found him; who returned, and related the odd Event to his Friends. As I have, in a Canoe, paſs'd near the Mountain, the Indians have ſaid to me, *There is the Neſt of the great Bird that carried the Boy away:* And there ſeem'd to be a great number of Sticks put together in form of a Neſt on the Top of the Mountain. At another time they ſaid; *There is the Bird, but he is now, as a Boy to a Giant, to what he was in former Days.* The Bird which they pointed to, was a large ſpeckled Bird, like an Eagle, tho' ſomewhat larger. Of an Indian carried away and return'd by a *Gulloua*.

The other Notion is, That a young Indian in his Hunting was belated and loſt his Way, and on a ſudden he was introduced to a large Wigwam full of dry'd Eels, which prov'd to be a *Beaver*'s Houſe, in which he liv'd till the Spring of the Year, when he was turned out of the Houſe, and ſet upon a Beaver-Damm, and went Home, and related the Affair to his Friends, at large. Of a Boy that was entertain'd by a *Beaver*.

When from the Mountain-Tops, with hideous Cry,
And clattering Wings the Hungry Harpies fly:
They Snatch'd ——
——And whether Gods or Birds obſcene they were,
Our Vows for Pardon and for Peace prefer. *Dryden's Virg.*

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

A Description of several Creatures commonly taken by the Indians on St. John's River.

SECT. I. Of the *Beaver*

THE *Beaver* has a very thick strong Neck, his fore Teeth, which are two in the upper, and two in the under Jaw, are concave and sharp like a Carpenter's Googe. Their side-Teeth are like a Sheep's, for they chew the Cud. Their Legs are short, the Claws something longer than in other Creatures; the Nails on the Toes of their hind Feet are flat like an Ape's, but join'd together by a Membrane as those of Water Fowl, their Tails broad and flat like the broad End of a Paddle. Near their Tails they have four Bottles, two of which contain Oil, the other Gum, the necks of these meet in one common Orifice; the latter of these contain the proper Castorum, and not the Testicles, as some have fancied, for the Testicles are distinct & seperate from these, in the Males only; but the Castorum and Oyl-Bottles are common to Male and Female. With this Oyl and Gum they preen themselves, so that when they come out of the Water it runs off them, as it doth off a Fowl. They have four Teats, which are on their Breasts, so that they hug up their Young, and suckle them, as Women do their Infants. They have generally two and sometimes four in a Litter. I have seen seven or five in the Matrix: but the Indians think it a strange thing to find so many in a Litter, and they assert, that when it so happens, the Dam kills all above four. They are the most laborious Creatures that I have met with. I have known them to build Damms acros Rivers which were thirty or forty Perch wide, with Wood & Mud, so as to flow many Acres of Land: in the deepest part of a Pond so raised, they build their Houses round in the Figure of an Indian Wigwam, eight or ten Feet in height, and six or eight Feet diameter on the Floor; which is made descending to the Water, the Parts near the Center about four, and near the Circumference between ten and twenty Inches above the Water: These Floors are covered with strippings of Wood like Shavings; on these they sleep with their Tails in the Water, and if the Freshits rise they

they have the advantage of rising on their Feet to their ghest part. They feed on the Leaves and Barks of Trees and Pond-Lilly-Roots. In the Fall of the Year they lay in their Provision for the approaching Winter; cutting down Trees great and small, with one end in their Mouths they drag their Branches near to their House, and sink many Cords of it. [They will cut down Trees of a Fathom in Circumference.] They have Doors to go down to the Wood under the Ice, and in case the Freshes rise, break down and carry off their Store of Wood, they often starve. They have a Note for conversing, calling & warning each other, when at Work or Feeding; & while they are at Labour they keep out a Guard, who upon the first approach of an Enemy so strikes the Water with it's Tail, that he may be heard half a Mile; which so alarms the rest, that they are all silent, quit their Labour, and are to be seen no more for that Time. And if the Male or Female die, the surviving seeks a Mate, and conducts him or her to their House, and carry on Affairs as above.

SECT. II. Of the *Wolverin.*

The *Wolverin* is a very fierce and mischievous Creature: about the bigness of a middling Dog, having short Legs, broad Feet, & very sharp Claws; and in my Opinion may be reckoned a Species of Cats. They will climb Trees, and wait for Moose and other Creatures who feed below, and when an Opportunity presents jump and strike their Claws in them so fast, that they will hang on them 'till they have gnaw'd the main Nerve of the Neck asunder, & the Creature dies. I have known many Moose kill'd thus. I was once travelling a little way behind several Indians, & heard them Laughing very merrily: when I came to them, they shew'd me the Track of a Moose, and how a *Wolverin* had climb'd a Tree, and where he had jump'd off upon the Moose; and the Moose had given several large Leaps, and happening to come under a Branch of a Tree, had broke the *Wolverin*'s hold and tore him off: and by his Track in the Snow, he went off another, with short steps, as if he had been stun'd with the Blow. The Indians who impute such Accidents to the cunning of the Creature, were wonderfully pleased that the Moose should thus out-wit the mischievous *Wolverin!*

H These

These *Wolverins*, go into Wigwams which have been left for any Time, scatter the Things abroad, and most filthily pollute them with Ordure. I have heard the Indians say, that they have hal'd their Guns from under their Heads, while they were asleep; and left them so defil'd. An Indian told me, that having left his Wigwam with sundry Things on the Scaffold, among which was a Birch-Flask with several Pounds of Powder in it: At their return they were much surpriz'd and griev'd, for a light Snow had fallen, and a *Wolverin* visits their Wigwam, mounts the Scaffold, and---to plundering, heaves down Bag & Baggage; the Powder happ'ned to fall into the Fire, which fill'd the *Wolverin*'s Eyes, and threw him and the Wigwam some Rods. At length they found the blind Creature rambling backward and forward, had the satisfaction of kicking and beating him about, which in great measure made up their Loss: and then they could contentedly pick up their Utensils, and rig out their Wigwam!

SECT. III. Of the *Hedge-Hog* or *Urchin*.

Our *Hedge-Hog* or *Urchin* is about the bigness of a Hog of six Months old, his Back and Sides and Tail are full of sharp Quills, so that if any Creature approach, they will contract themselves to a globular Form; if a Creature attack them, those Quills are so sharp and lose in their Skins that they fix in the Mouth of the Adversary and leave their own Skin. They will strike with great force, with their Tails; so that whatever falls under the lash of them, are certainly fill'd with their Prickles: But that they shoot their Quills, as some assert they do, is a great mistake as to the *American*, and I believe as to the *African Hedge-Hog* or *Porcupine* also; as to the former I have taken them at all Seasons of the Year. See Chap. 5. Sect. 2.

SECT. IV. Of the *Tortoise*.

It is needless to describe the fresh-water *Tortoise*, whose Form is so well known in all Parts: but their way of propagating their Species is not so universally known. I have observed that sort whose Shell is about fourteen or sixteen Inches wide: in their Coition or Treading they may be heard half a Mile, making a noise like a Woman washing her Linnen with a batting Staff—. They lay their Eggs in the

the Sand; near some deep still Water, about a Foot beneath the surface of the Sand. They are very curious in covering them with the Sand, so that there is not the least mixture of it amongst them; nor the least rising of Sand on the Beach where they lie: I have often search'd for them with the Indians, by thrusting a Stick into the Sand, about the Beech at random, and brought up some part of an Egg clinging to it: and uncovering the Place have found near an hundred & fifty in one Nest. Both their Eggs & Flesh are good-Eating when boil'd &c. I have observed a difference as to the length of Time which they are hatching, which is between twenty & thirty Days, some sooner than others: Whether this difference ought to be imputed to the various Quality or Site of the Sand in which they lay (as to it's cold or heat &c.) I leave to the Conjecture of the Virtuosi. --- As soon as they were hatch'd, they broke thro' the Sand and betook themselves to the Water, as far as I could discover, without any further Care or Help of the Old Ones.

SECT. V. Of the Salmon.

Of the *Salmon* I shall only note, that they come from the Sea early in the Spring, to the fresh Rivers; and with great pains ascend the Falls, till they come to the Heads of the Rivers; where the Water runs riffling over a coarse Gravel near some Pond or deep still Water: there they work Holes to lodge in, and in the Night resort to them, by two & two, the Male with his Female; thus lying together the Female ejects a Spawn, like a Pea; the Male a Sperm like Milk, which sink among the Gravel. I have often been fishing for them, with a Torch in the Night, when the Water hath been so shoal that they have lien with their Backs & Tails above the Water: and if our Spear miss'd it's stroke, the Fish darted at, would flutter & alarm the whole Shoal, (tho' it consisted of a vast Multitude) which immediately repaired to the deep Water, and return'd not in plenty for several Nights. When the Leaf falls they have done Spawning, and return to the Sea.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of their Feasting, &c.

SECT. I. Of their Feasting before they go out to War.

WHEN the Indians determine for War, or are entering upon a particular Expedition, they kill a number of their Dogs, burn off their Hair, and cut them into Pieces; leaving only one Dog's Head whole; the rest of the Flesh they boil, and make a fine Feast of it: after which, the Dog's Head that was left whole is scorch'd, 'till the Nose and Lips have shrunk from the Teeth, and left them bare and grinning; this done; they fasten it on a Stick, and the Indian who is proposed to be Chief in the Expedition takes the Head into his Hand and sings a Warlike Song: in which he mentions the Town they design to Attack, and the principal Man in it, threatning that in a few Days he will carry that Man's Head and Scalp in his Hand, in the same manner. When the Chief hath Sung, he so places the Dog's Head as to grin at him whom he supposeth will go his Second: who, if he accepts, takes the Head in his Hand and sings, but if he refuse to go, he turns the Teeth to another; and thus from one to another 'till they have inlisted their Company.

The Indians imagine that Dog's Flesh makes them bold and courageous! I have seen an Indian split a Dog's Head with a Hatcher, and take out the Brains hot, and eat them raw, with the Blood running down his Jaws!

SECT. II. Of their Mourning for the Dead, and Feast after it.

When a Relation dies; in a still Evening, a Squaw will walk on the highest Land near her abode, and with a loud, mournful Voice exclaim, *Oh hawe, hawe, hawe*, with a long mournful Tone to each *hawe*, for a long time together.

After the mourning Season is over, the Relations of the deceased make a Feast to wipe off Tears; and they may Marry freely. If the deceas'd were a Squaw, the Relations consult together and choose a Squaw (doubtless a Widow) and send her to the Widower: and if he like her he takes her to be his Wife, if not, he sends her back; and the Relations choose and send 'till they find one that he approveth of.

If

If a young Fellow determines to marry, his Relations and the Jesuit advise him to a Girl: and the young Fellow goes into the Wigwam where she is, and looks on her; and if he likes her, he tosseth a Chip or Stick into her Lap, which she takes, and with a reserv'd, side-Look views the Person who sent it; yet handleth the Chip with Admiration, as tho' she wondred from whence it came. If she likes him, she throws the Chip to him, with a modest Smile; and then nothing is wanting but a Ceremony with the Jesuit to consummate the Marriage: But if the young Squaw dislike the Fellow, she with a surly Countenance throws the Chip aside, and he comes no more there.——.

If Parents have a Daughter marrigeable *, they seek a Husband for her, who is a good Hunter. And if he have a Gun and Ammunition, a Canoe, Spear and Hatchet; a Monoodah ‡ and crooked-Knife, a looking-Glass & Paint; a Pipe, Tobacco and Knot-Bowl to toss a kind of Dice in, he is accounted a Gentleman of a plentiful Fortune. [By their sort of Dice they lose much Time, playing whole Days and Nights together: and sometimes their whole Estate: tho' this is accounted a great Vice by the Old Men.] Whatever the new-married-Man procures the first Year belongs to his Wife's Parents. [If the young Pair have a Child within a Year and nine Months, they are tho't to be very forward, libidinous Persons.]

SECT. IV. A Digression containing an Account of a Rape committed by a Demon. Of the White-Hills called the Teddon, &c.

There is an old Story told among the Indians of a Family, who had a Daughter that was accounted a finished Beauty, and adorned with the precious Jewel of an Indian Education! So form'd, by Nature and polish'd by Art they could not find for her a suitable Consort! At length, while they resided on the Head of *Penobscot River*, under the White-Hills called the *Teddon*, this fine Creature was missing; and her Parents could have no Account of her. After much Time spent, Pains, and Tears show'red in quest of her;

* A Virgin who has been educated, to make Monoodah's and Birch-Dishes, to lace Snow-Shoes and make Indian Shoes, to string Wampum-Belts, sew Birch Canoes, and boil the Kettle, is esteem'd as a Lady of fine Accomplishments.

‡ A *Monoodah* is an Indian Bag.

they saw her, diverting her self with a beautiful Youth, whose Hair like her's flow'd down below his Waste, Swimming, Washing, &c. in the Water; but the Youths vanished upon their Approach *. This beautiful Person, whom they imagin'd to be one of those kind Spirits who inhabit the *Teddon*; they look'd upon him as their Son-in-Law: so that (according to Custom) they called upon him for Moose, Bear, or what ever Creature they desired, and if they did but go to the Water-side and signify their desire, the Creature which they would have, came Swimming to them!

I have heard an Indian say, that he lived by the River at the Foot of the *Teddon*, and in his Wigwam, seeing the top of it thro' the Hole left in the top of the Wigwam for the passing of Smoke, he was tempted to travel to it: accordingly he set out early on a Summer's Morning, and laboured hard in ascending the Hill all Day, and the Top seem'd as distant from the Place where he lodged at Night, as from the Wigwam whence he began his Journey: and concluding that Spirits were there, never dare make a second Attempt.

I have been credibly inform'd that several others have fail'd in the same Attempt: particularly, that three young Men tow'rd the *Teddon* three Days and an half, and then began to be strangely disordered & delirious, and when their Imagination was clear, and they could recollect where they were, and had been; they found themselves return'd one Days Journey: how they came down so far, they can't guess, unless the Genii of the Place convey'd them! These White Hills at the Head of *Penobscot River*, are, by the Indians, said to be much higher than those, call'd *Agiockochock*, above *Saco*.

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* Where now, in his divinest Form array'd,
In his true Shape he captivates the Maid;
Who gazes on him, and with wond'ring Eyes
Beholds the new majestick Figure rise,
His glowing Features, and celestial Light,
And all the god discover'd to her sight. *Europa's* Rape.

But

But to return to an Indian Feast, of which you may request a Bill of Fare, before you go; and if you dislike it stay at Home. The Ingredients are Fish, Flesh, or Indian Corn and Beans boil'd together—, or Hasty-Pudden made of pounded Corn: Whenever and as often as these are plenty; an Indian boils four or five large Kettles full, and sends a Messenger to each Wigwam-Door; who exclaims, *Kuh Men Soorebah!* i. e. *I come to conduct you to a Feast:* The Man within demands whether he must take, a Spoon, or a Knife in his Dish which he always carries with him. They appoint two or three Young Men to Mess it out, to each Man his Portion according to the number of his Family at Home; which is done with the utmost exactness*. When they have done eating, a young Fellow stands without the Door, and crys aloud *Men Sommook*, Come & fetch! Immediately each Squaw goes to her Husband and takes what he has left, which she carries Home and eats with her Children. For neither married Women nor any Youth under twenty Years of Age are allowed to be present: but old Widow-Squaws and Captive Men may set by the Door. The Indian Men continue in the Wigwam, some relating their Warlike Exploits; others something Comical; others give a Narrative of their Hunting; the Seniors give maxims of Prudence and grave Counsels to the Young Men: tho' every ones Speech be agreable to the run of his own Fancy, yet they confine themselves to Rule, and but one speaks at a Time. After every Man has told his Story, One rises up, Sings a Feast-Song, and others succeed alternately as the Company see fit.

SECT. VI. Their extraordinary ways of getting Fire and boiling their Food.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention. If an Indian have lost his Fire-Work, he can presently take two Sticks, the

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* What Lord of Ind wou'd bid his Cook prepare,
Mangoes, Potaroo, Champignons, Cavare?
Or wou'd our thrum Capp'd Ancestors find fault
For want of Sugar Tongs, or Spoons for Salt —
Where ev'ry thing that ev'ry Soldier got,
Fowl, Bacon, Cabbage, Mutton, and what not,
Was all thrown into Bank, and went to Pot.

Art of Cookery.

one

one harder than the other (the drier the better) and in the Softest make an Hollow or Socket, to which they fit one end of the hardest Stick; then holding the softest Wood firm between their Knees; they fix the end of the hard Stick made fit into the Socket, and whirl it round in their Hand like a Drill, and it takes Fire in a few Minutes.

If they have lost or left their Kettle, 'tis but putting the Victuals into a Birch-Dish, leaving a vacancy in the middle, filling it with Water, and putting in hot Stones alternately: and they will thus tho'ly boil the toughest Neck of Beef.

CHAP. VIII.

Of my three Years Captivity with the French.

SECT. I. Of a Contention among the Indians, which caused them to sell me to the French.

WHEN about six Years of my doleful Captivity had past, my second Indian Master dyed, whose Squaw and my first Indian Master disputed whose Slave I should be; and some malicious Persons advised them to end the Quarrel by putting a Period to my Life: but honest Father *Simon*, the Priest of the River, told them that it would be a heinous Crime, and advised them to sell me to the French. There came annually one or two Men of War to Supply the Fort, which was on the River about thirty four Leagues from the Sea: The Indians having Advice of the Arrival of a Man of War at the Mouth of the River, they, about thirty or forty in Number went aboard: For the Gentlemen from *France* made a Present to them every Year, and set forth the Riches & Victories of their Monarch &c. at this Time they presented a Bag or two of Flour with some Prunes, as Ingredients for a Feast. I, who was dress'd up in an old greasy Blanket, without Cap, Hat or Shirt, (for I had no Shirt for the six Years, but that which was on my Back when I was taken) was invited into the great Cabbin, where many well rigg'd Gentlemen were sitting; who would fain have had a full view of me: I endeavoured to hide my self behind the Hangings, for I was much ashamed; thinking of my former wearing Cloaths, and of my living with People

ple, who could rig as well as the best of them. My Maſter asked me, Whether I choſe to be ſold aboard the Man of War, or to the Inhabitants? I replied with Tears, I ſhould be glad if you would tell me to the Engliſh from whom you took me, but if I muſt be ſold to the French, I choſe to be Sold to the loweſt on the River, or neareſt Inhabitant to the Sea, about twenty-five Leagues from the Mouth of the River: for I thot, that, if I were ſold to the Gentlemen aboard the Man of War, I ſhould never return to the Engliſh. This was the firſt ſight I had of Salt Water in my Captivity, and the firſt time that I had taſted Salt or Bread.

Sect. II. Of my being ſold to the French.

My Maſter preſently went aſhore, and after a few Days all the Indians went up the River; and when we came to the Houſe which I mentioned to my Maſter, he went aſhore with me and tarried all Night: the Maſter of the Houſe ſpake kindly to me in Indian, for I could not then ſpeak one Word of French: Madam alſo look'd pleaſant on me, and gave me ſome Bread. The next Day I was ſent ſix Leagues further up the River to another French Houſe. My Maſter and the Fryar tarried with Monſieur *Decheuffour*, the Gentleman who had entertain'd us the Night before. Not long after, Father *Simon* came and ſaid, Now you are one of us, for you are ſold to that Gentleman by whom you were entertain'd the other Night. I replied; --- Sold! --- to a Frenchman! --- I could ſay no more! --- went into the Woods alone and wept till I could ſcarce ſee or ſtand! The word *Sold*, and that to a People of that Perſwaſion, which my dear Mother ſo much deteſted, and in her laſt Words manifeſted ſo great Fears of my falling into! --- the Thoughts of theſe almoſt broke my Heart! When I had given vent to my Paſſions, I rub'd my Eyes, endeavouring to hide my Grief: But Father *Simon* perceiving that my Eyes were ſwoln, called me aſide; and bid me not to grieve: for the Gentleman to whom I was ſold was of a good humour, that he had formerly bought two Captives of the Indians, who both went home to *Boſton*; this in ſome meaſure revived me. But he added, that, he did not ſuppoſe that I would ever incline to go to the Engliſh, for the French way of Worſhip was much to be preferred: alſo, that he

should pass that way in about ten Days, and if I did not like to live with the French better than with the Indians, he would buy me again. On the Day following, Father *Simon* and my Indian Master went up the River six & thirty Leagues, to their Chief Village, and I went down the River six Leagues with two Frenchmen to my new Master: Who kindly receiv'd me, and in a few Days Madam made me an Oznabrigs Shirt and French Cap, and a Coat out of one of my Master's old Coats; then I threw away my greasy Blanket and Indian Flap, and look'd as smart as-----. And I never more saw the old Fryar, the Indian Village, or my Indian Master, till about fourteen Years after I saw my Indian Master at *Port-Royal* whither I was sent by the Government, with a Flag on Truce, for exchanging Prisoners: and again about twenty four Years since he came to *St. John*'s to *George*'s to see me, where I made him very welcome.

SECT. III. Of my Employment among the French.

My French Master held a great Trade with the Indians, which suited me very well, I being thorow in the Languages of the Tribes at *Cape Sable*'s and *St. John*'s. I had not lived long with this Gentleman before he committed to me the Keys of his Store &c. and my whole Employment was Trading and Hunting; in which I acted faithfully for my Master, and never knowingly wrong'd him to the value of one Farthing. They spake to me so frequently in Indian, that it was some time before I was perfect in the French Tongue. Monsieur generally had his Goods from the Man of War which came there annually from *France*.

In the Year 1696 two Men of War came to the Mouth of the River, which had taken the *New-Port*, Capt. *Paxton* Commander, and brought him with them: They made the Indians some Presents, and invited them to join in an Expedition to *Pemmaquid*, which Invitation they accepted, and soon after arrived there; and Capt. *Chubb* ‖ delivered the

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‖ The Reverend Dr. *Mather* says wittily (as he said every thing) "This *Chubb* found Opportunity in a pretty *Chubbyh manner*, to kill "the famous *Edgeremet* & *Abenquid*, a couple of principal Indians, with "one or two other Indians, on a Lord's Day, the sixteenth of *Fe-*"*bruary* 1695. If there were any unfair Dealing in this Action of "*Chubb*, there will be another *February*, not far off, wherein the A-"venger of Blood will take their Satisfaction. *Hist. of* N. E. *B.* 7. *P.* 79.

Fort,

Fort, without much diſpute, to Monſieur *Deberoel* their Chief; as I heard the Gentleman ſay whom I lived with, who was there preſent ‡. Early in the Spring I was ſent, with three Frenchmen, to the Mouth of the River, for Proviſion which came from *Port-Royal*. We carried over Land, from the River to a large Bay, where we were driven on an Iſland by a North-Eaſt Storm, and were kept there ſeven Days, without any Suſtenance, for we expected a quick Paſſage and carried nothing with us; the Wind continuing boiſterous, ſo that we could not return back, and the Ice prevented our going forward: After ſeven Days the Ice broke up, and we went forward, tho' we were ſo weak that we could ſcarce hear each other ſpeak; and the People at the Mouth of the River were ſurprized to ſee us ſo feeble; and adviſed us to be cautious & abſtemious in eating. By this Time, I knew as much of Faſting as they, and dieted on Broth, and recovered very well, as alſo one of the others did; but the other two would not be adviſed: and I never ſaw any Perſons in greater Torment than they were, till they obtain'd a Paſſage---on which they recovered.

SECT. IV. Of the Friar's tranſaction while I was among them.

A Friar who lived in the Family invited me to Confeſſion, but I excuſed my ſelf as well as I could. One Evening he took me into his Apartment, in the dark, and adviſed me to confeſs to him what Sins I had committed: I told him, that I could not remember a thouſandth part of them (they were ſo numerous:) Then he bid me remember and relate as many as I could, and he would pardon them; ſignifying that he had a Bag to put them in. I told him that I did not believe that it was in the power of any but GOD to pardon Sin. He asked me, whether I had read the Bible? I told him that I had when I was a little Boy, ſo long ſince, that I had forgot moſt of it. Then he told me, that he did not pardon my Sins; but when he knew them

‡ Our laſt quoted Author ſays, on the fourth or fifth of *Auguſt*, *Clubb* with an unaccountable Baſeneſs did Surrender the Brave Fort of *Pemmaquid* into their Hands.

" Unthinking Men no ſort of Scruples make;
" And ſome are bad, only for Miſchief's ſake;
" But ev'n the Beſt are guilty by Miſtake

he.

he prayed GOD to pardon them: when, perhaps I was at my Sports and Plays.---He wish'd me well, and hoped that I should be better advised, and said that he should call for me in a little Time: Thus he dismiss'd and never call'd me to Confession more.

Of a Jesuit's Ceremony to break up the Haunt of Black Birds.

The Gentleman whom I lived with had a fine Field of Wheat, which great numbers of Black Birds, visited; and destroy'd much of. But the French said a Jesuit would come and banish them; who came at length, and all things were prepared, *viz.* a Bason of, what they call, Holy-Water, ; a Staff with a little Brush to sprinkle withal, & the Jesuit's white Robe, which he put on. [I ask'd several Prisoners, who had lately been taken by Privateers and brought hither, *viz.* Mr. *Woodberry*, *Cocks*, & *Morgan*, whether they would go and see the Ceremony? Mr. *Woodberry* ask'd me, whether I designed to go? I told him that I did. He said, that I was then as bad a Papist as they, and a d--n'd Fool. I told him that I believ'd as little of it as they did, but I inclined to see the Ceremony, that I might rehearse it to the English.] They entred the Field and walk'd through the Wheat in Procession, a young Lad going before the Jesuit with a Bason of their Holy-Water; then the Jesuit with his Brush, dipping it into the Bason, and sprinkling the Field on each side of him; next him a little Bell tingling, and about thirty Men following in order, Singing, with the Jesuit, *Ora pro N. bis*; at the End of the Field they Wheel'd to the Left about, and return'd. Thus they went through the Field of Wheat, the Birds rising before them and lighting behind them. At their return I said to a French Lad; The Fryar hath done no Service, --He had better take a Gun and shoot the Birds. The Lad left me a while (I tho't, to ask the Jesuit what to say) and when he returned, he said, the Sins of the People were so great, that the Fryar could not prevail against those Creatures. The same Jesuit as vainly attempted to banish the Muschetoes at *Sigenetto*, for the Sins of that People were so great also, that he could not prevail against them, but rather drew more: as the French inform'd me!

Some

Some Time after Col *Hawthorn* attempted the taking the French Fort up this River: we heard of them some time before they came up the River, by the Guard that Governour *Vielbon* had order'd at the River's Mouth. Monsieur, the Gentleman whom I lived with was gone to *France*; and Madam Advised with me---- She then desired me to nail the Paper on the Door of our House, containing as follows:

I intreat the General of the English not to burn my House or Barn, nor destroy my Cattle. I don't suppose that such an Army come up this River to destroy a few Inhabitants, but for the Fort above us. I have shewn Kindness to the English Captives as we were Capacitated, and have bought two Captives of the Indians and sent them to Boston; and have One now with us, and he shall go also when a convenient Opportunity presents, and he desires it.

This done, Madam said to me;

" *Little English*; We have shewn you Kindness; and " now it lies in your Power to serve or disserve us, as you " know where our Goods are hid in the Woods, and that " *Monsieur* is not at Home: I could have sent you to the " Fort and put you under Confinement, but my Respects " to you, and assurance of your Love to us; has disposed " me to confide in you, perswaded that you will not hurt " us nor our Affairs. And now if you will not run away " to the English who are coming up the River, but serve " our Interest, I will acquaint *Monsieur* of it at his return " from *France*, which will be very pleasing to him: And " I now give my Word, that, you shall have liberty to go " to *Boston* on the first Opportunity (if you desire it) or " that any other Favour, in my Power, shall not be de- " ny'd you".

I replied; " *Madam*; It is contrary to the Nature of " the English to requite Evil for Good. I shall endeavour " to serve you and your Interest. I shall not run to the " English; but if I am taken by them, shall willingly go " with them, and yet endeavour not to disserve you either " in your Persons or Goods".

|| The Place where our House stood, was called *Hagimsack*, twenty-five Leagues from the River's Mouth, as before noted.

 This

This said, We embark'd and went in a large Boat and Canoe two or three Miles up an Eastern-Branch of the River that comes from a large Pond: and in the Evening sent down four Hands to make discovery; and while they were setting in the House the English surrounded it and took one of the four; the other three made their escape, in the dark, through the English Soldiers, and came to us, and gave a surprizing Account of Affairs. Again, Madam said to me, "*Little English*; Now you can go from us, "but I hope you will remember your Word!" I said; "*Madam*, Be not concern'd; for I will not leave you in "this Strait". She said, "I know not what to do with "my two poor little Babes!" I said, "*Madam*, the "sooner we embark and go over the great Pond the better." Accordingly we embark'd and went over the Pond. The next Day we spake with Indians, who (were in a Canoe and) gave us an Account that *Sigenecto-Town* was taken and burnt. Soon after we heard the great Guns at Governour *Vielbon*'s Fort, which the English engag'd several Days, kill'd one Man, and drew off and went down the River; for it was so late in the Fall, that had they tarried a few Days longer, in the River; they would have been froze in for the Winter. Hearing no report of the great Guns for several Days, I with two others went down to our House, to make discovery——: where we found our young Lad who was taken by the English when they went up the River: For the General was so honourable that, on reading the Note on our Door, he ordered that the House and Barn should not be burnt, nor their Cattle or other Creatures kill'd; except one or two, and the Poultry, for their Use: and at their return, order'd the young Lad to be put ashore. Finding things in this Posture, we return'd and gave *Madam* an Account: --- She acknowledged the many Favours which the English had shewn her with Gratitude; and treated me with great Civility. The next Spring, *Monsieur* arriv'd from *France* in the Man of War; who thank'd me for my Care of his Affairs, and said that he would endeavour to fulfil what Madam had promised to me.

And

SECT. VI. Of my releaſe, and return to my Friends.

And accordingly in the Year 1698, the Peace being proclaim'd, and a Sloop come to the Mouth of the River, with a Ranſom for one *Michael Cooms*; I put Monſieur in mind of his Word: I told him that there was now an Opportunity for me to go and ſee the Engliſh. He adviſed me to tarry, and told me that he would do for me as for his own, &c. I thank'd him for his Kindneſs, but choſe rather to go to *Boſton*, for I hoped that I had ſome Relations yet alive. Then he adviſed me to go up to the Fort and take my Leave of the Governour: which I did, and he ſpake very kindly &c. Some Days after I took my Leave of Madam; Monſieur went down to the Mouth of the River with me to ſee me ſafe aboard, and asked the Maſter, Mr. *Starkee*, a Scotch Man, whether I muſt pay for my Paſſage? if ſo, he would pay it himſelf rather than I ſhould have it to pay at my Arrival at *Boſton*, but gave me not a penny. The Maſter told him that there was nothing to pay, and that if the Owner ſhould make any Demand, he would pay it himſelf rather than a poor Priſoner ſhould ſuffer, for he was glad to ſee any Engliſh Perſon come out of Captivity.

On the thirteenth of *June* I took my leave of Monſieur, and the Sloop came to Sail for *Boſton*; where we arrived on the nineteenth of the ſame at Night. In the Morning after my Arrival, a Youth came on Board, and asked many Queſtions relating to my Captivity, and at length gave me to underſtand that he was my little Brother, who was at Play with ſome other Children, and upon hearing the Guns and ſeeing the Indians run, made their eſcape to the Fort, and went off with the Captain and People: and that my Elder Brother who made his Eſcape from the Farm, whence I was taken, and our two little Siſters, were alive, and that our Mother had been dead ſome Years, &c. as above related. Then we went aſhore, and ſaw our Elder Brother &c.

On the ſecond of *Auguſt* 1689, I was taken, and on the nineteenth of *June* 1698, arrived at *Boſton*: ſo that I was a Captive eight Years ten Months and ſeventeen Days: In all which Time, tho' I underwent extream Difficulties; yet I ſaw much of the Goodneſs of GOD.

May

May the most powerful and beneficent BEING, accept of this publick Testimony of it, and bless my Experiences to excite others to confide in his All-sufficiency, thro the infinite Merits of JESUS CHRIST !

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX,

Containing Minutes of the Employments, Publick Stations &c. of *John Gyles*, Esq; Commander of the Garrison on *St. George's River*.

After my return out of Captivity *June* 28*th*. 1698, I applied my self to the Government for their Favour ——. Soon after I was employed by old Father *Mitchel* of *Malden*, to go his Interpreter on Trading Account to *St. John's River*.

October 14. 1698, I was employed by the Government, Lieut. Governour *Stoughton* Commander in Chief, to go Interpreter, at *Three Pounds* per Month, with Major *Converse*, and old Capt. *Alden*, to *Penobscot* to fetch Captives —— at our return to *Boston* I was dismiss'd. But within a few Days the Governour sent for me to Interpret a Conference with *Bomaseen* and other Indians then in Goal.

Sometime after I was again put in Pay in order to go Interpreter with Col. *Phillips* and Capt. *Southack* in the Province Galley to *Casco Bay*, to Exchange said Indians for English Captives. *December* 1698, we return'd to *Boston* with several English Captives, and I was dismiss'd the Service, and desired to attend it in the Spring. I pleaded to be kept in Pay that I might have wherewith to support me at School—— I went into the Country to *Rowley* (where Boarding was cheap) to practice what little I had attain'd at School.

March 1699. With the little of my Wages that I could reserve, I paid for my Schooling & Board, and attended the Service upon Request; and was again put into Pay, and went with Col. *Phillips* and Major *Converse* in a large Brigantine up *Kenebeck River*, for Captives: and at our return to *Boston*, the Province Galley being arrived from *New York* with my Lord Bellemont, and the Province Truck put on board, I was ordered on board the Galley; we Cruised the Eastern Shore: And in *November* 1699, I was put out of Pay, tho' I pleaded to be continued under Pay seeing I must attend the Service in the Spring, and be at considerable Expence in the Winter for my Schooling.

In the Spring 1700, I attended the Service & was put into Pay---. 27th. of *Auguſt*---Orders from the Government to build a Fort at *Caſco Bay*, which was finiſhed *October* 6th. and the Province-Truck landed and I ordered to reſide, as Interpreter, with a Captain &c. in ſaid Garriſon. Not long after Governour DUDLEY ſent me a Lieutenants Commiſſion with Memorandum on the back---*No further Pay but as Interpreter at* Three Pounds *per Month.*

Auguſt 10th. 1703. The French and Indians beſieged our Fort ſix Days, Major *March* Commander: On the 16th. Day of the ſame, Capt. *Southack* arrived in the Province Galley, and the Night following the Enemy withdrew.

May 19th. 1704. I received a few Lines from His Excellency directing me to leave my Poſt and accompany Col. *Church* on an Expedition round the Bay of *Fundee*. *September* following I return'd to my Poſt without any further Wages or Encouragement for that Service than the before mentioned Pay at the Garriſon.

April 1706. There was a Change of the Chief Officer at our Garriſon--I choſe to be diſmiſs'd with my old Officer---which was granted.

1706. His Excellency Governour DUDLEY preſented me a Captain's Commiſſion, and order'd Col. *Saltonſtall* to detach fifty effective Men, to be delivered to me in order for a March-----.

May 1707. I entred on an Expedition to *Port-Royal*, Col. *March* Commander in Chief,---at return diſmiſs'd.

May 12th. 1708. I receiv'd Orders from His Excellency to go to *Port-Royal* with a Flag of Truce to exchange Priſoners, and brought off all--at return diſmiſs'd.

1709. I receiv'd a Commiſſion, and Col. *Noyes* had Orders to detach forty Men and deliver to me, in order to join the Forces for *Canada*. At *Hull*, *Auguſt* 1ſt. 1709, I received Orders from His Excellency to leave my Company with my Lieutenant, and go to *Port-Royal* with a Flag of Truce to Exchange Priſoners.

A Copy of which Deſire or Order is as follows, *viz.*

Boſton, *Auguſt* 1ſt. 1709.

Sir,

"I Deſire you to Embarque on the Sloop *Hannah* and *Ruth*, *Thomas Waters*, Maſter, a Flag of Truce for *Port-Royal*, to whom "when you are on board, you will give Orders to Sail to *Port-Royal* "accordingly.

"At your Arrival there attend Mr. *Supercaſs* the Governour, and "give him my Letter, withal acquainting him you have Nine French "Priſoners on Board, which are all that are in my Hands without "reſerve. Receive his Direction for the Landing of 'em: And let

"him

" him know that I expect he do me a like Justice in letting you
" have all the English Prisoners within his Power, which you are to
" demand and insist on agreably to his own promise last Year by your
" self. Demand to have them forthwith gathered together, that you
" may see and speak with them, and have them delivered to you,
" that you be not delayed.

" Observe to him my just Resentment of his breach upon me, in
" not sending them early this Spring, according to his parole of
" Honour the last Year by your self; when I returned him upwards
" of Forty, and had made Provision for the bringing home of mine:
" His detention of them then, puts me to a repeated Charge.

" I expect he supply what may be further necessary for the Sup-
" port of the Prisoners in their Return, as I have done for his now,
" and at all times past.

" Let not your stay there be more than six Days, if possible, and
" hasten back with all imaginable Expedition.

" Be not by any means diverted from your demand and expecta-
" tion of seeing the English Prisoners, and that you bring them with
" you; unless on your speaking with them they are not willing to
" come, but make their Election to be Transported elsewhere; as
" you have seen done by your Governour here.

" I have ordered the Master to attend your Orders. He will
" shew you his Instructions, and I desire you will see they be strict-
" ly observed, particularly in the Article referring to Trade, and
" the Government of his Company. I wish you a prosperous Voyage.

" And am, Sir,

" Your Friend and Servant,

J. DUDLEY.

" Make particular Inquiry after
" Capt. *Myles*, and demand
" his and Company's Release.

" *To* Capt. John Gyles, *Commission'd*
" *to* Port-Royal.

Accordingly arriving at *Port-Royal*, I was again kindly entertain'd by Governour *Supercase*, & brought off above an Hundred Prisoners: soon after my return our Forces were dismiss'd, and I receiv'd no further consideration for my Service than Pay as Captain of my Company.

August 1715. I was desired and had great Promises made me by the Proprietors, and received Orders from His Excellency, to build a Fort at *Pejepscot*. Soon after our Arrival there, the Indians came

in

in the Night, and forbid our laying one Stone upon another. I told them I came with Orders from Governour DUDLEY to build a Fort, and if they diſlik'd it they might aquaint him of it: and that if they came forceably upon us they or I ſhould fall on the Spot: After ſuch like hot Words they left us, and we went on with our Building, and finiſhed it *November 25th.* 1715, and our Carpenters & Maſons left us. My Wages were very ſmall, yet the Gentlemen-Proprietors ordered me only *Five Pounds* for my good Service &c.

July 12th. 1722. A number of Indians engag'd *Fort George* about two Hours, kill'd one Perſon, and then drew off to killing Cattle &c.

April 1725. I received Orders from His Honour Lieut. Governour DUMMER to go ten Days March up *Ammiſcoggin River*; and in my Abſence the Indians kill'd two Men at our Fort;--- I received no further Pay for ſaid Service,--only the Pay of the Garriſon.

December 12th. 1725. I was diſmiſs'd from *Fort George*, and Capt. *Woodſide* received a Commiſſion for the Command of that Place.

December 13th. 1725. I was Commiſſion'd for the Garriſon on *St. George's River.*

September 1726. I was detained ſome Months from my Poſt, by order of His Honour Lieut Governour DUMMER, Commander in Chief, to Interpret for the *Cape-Sable* Indians, who were brought in & found Guilty of Piracy, there not being any other in the Province that had their Language; for which His Honour and the honourable Council preſented me *Ten Pounds*; which I gratefully received.

November 28. 1728. I was Commiſſioned for the Peace.

I have had the Honour to ſerve this Province under eight Commanders in Chief, Governours and Lieut. Governours, from the Year 1698, to the Year 1736. And how much longer my Service may continue---I ſubmit to the Governour of the World, who over-rules every Circumſtance of Life which relates to our Happineſs & Uſefulneſs, as in infinite Wiſdom He ſees meet.

Be calm, my Delius, and Serene,
However Fortune change the Scene:
In thy moſt dejected State,
Sink not underneath the Weight;
Nor yet when Happy Days begin,
And the full Tide comes rowling in,
Let not a fierce unruly Joy
The ſettled Quiet of thy Mind deſtroy:
However Fortune change the Scene,
Be calm, my Delius, and Serene. Horace.

ERRATUM: Page 1. line 4 from the bottom read, founded *by*. p. 14. l. 26. r. *as* I. p. 15. l. 36. r. *unmerited*. p. 25 l. 36. r. another *way* p. 34. l. 16. for *to* r. *from*. p. 39. l. 13. r. *and*. l. 21. for 13*th*. r. 20*th*. l. 23. for 10*th* r. 28*th*. l. 26. for 19*th*. r. 28*th*. l. 27. for 17. r. 26.